

A more detailed update regarding the efforts of elected officials, government agencies and concerned citizens will be provided after the Asian Carp meeting meets at the end of this month.

As I mentioned during the April 8 update, our elected officials are very aware of the problem, and most have appointed someone in their offices to focus on this issue, even during the COVID-19 crisis.

In February, the Tennessee Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee unanimously approved a resolution asking the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and other federal authorities to join Tennessee in “aggressively addressing the Asian carp invasion on Tennessee waterways.”

The bill was sponsored by Senator Ken Yager (R-Kingston), who said, “*The fundamental purpose of this resolution is to bring recognition to the urgency of this problem. Aggressive measures must be undertaken to prevent Asian carp from ruining our ecosystem, fishing, and recreational boating if we as a state do not respond. Robust federal intervention is essential, with additional resources needed to help prevent the fish from spreading further.*”

Since 2004, more than \$600 million has been spent by state and federal agencies to stop the carp (AP). Projects in the works will likely push that price tag to about \$1.5 billion in the next ten years.

Even so, we cannot leave the future of East Tennessee’s beautiful lakes and rivers entirely in someone else’s hands. Here’s what you can do to help:

1. Go to the TWRA website (tnwf.org/AsianCarp) and Take the Pledge! When you do, you will pledge to take four steps to help stop Asian carp migration. You can also sign up to receive the latest conservation news and actions to take.
 - a. Talk to your legislators ... and keep talking to them (there is a link to send email messages to Tennessee legislators).
 - b. Do not move bait fish – Asian carp have a shad-like appearance and are easily mistaken for baitfish (see FB photo).
 - c. Report Asian Carp to TWRA – more information on how to report Asian carp is found on the Facebook page, **Stop Silver Carp in TN (see photo)**.
 - d. Share information with friends! (tnwf.org/AsianCarp)
2. Like the Facebook page “Stop Silver Carp in TN” to stay up-to-date on legislation, action, and how you can help the effort:

Fishermen in East Tennessee - TWRA is asking for your help in the hunt for silver carp per the wanted poster below.

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE



If you catch any Asian carp in East Tennessee, the TWRA is asking that you put it on ice or freeze it and contact them immediately. If you are unable to keep the fish, the TWRA asks you to submit photos of the fish in hand and send it to them.

You can contact the nearest TWRA office by phone or by email at: ans.twra@tn.gov Crossville: 931-484-9571 Toll Free: 833-402-4698

KNOW YOUR BAIT!



Eyes and Mouth are the Key

Gizzard shad smaller mouth and lower with blunt nose, with larger eyes located high above the mouth.

Silver carp larger mouth more toward upper portion of head, smaller eyes, lower down, level with the lips/jaw.